GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:219
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2006
MILITANT ATTACK ON AMARNATH PILGRIMS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been incidents of militant attack on Amarnath pilgrims in the recent past;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith number of persons injured/killed in such attacks;

(c) the name of the militant groups who has taken the responsibility of these attacks;

(d) whether Union Government has reviewed the security of Amarnath pilgrims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken for the safety and security of Amarnath pilgrims?

Answer

(MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS) (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, in a single incident on June 21, 2006 at Behama Ganderbal, Srinagar, unidentified terrorists lobbed a grenade at a bus carrying Amarnath pilgrims in which 5 pilgrims sustained injuries.

(c): No terrorist outfit has taken the responsibility for this attack. However, inputs suggest that Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) outfit has carried out this attack.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. Central Government is constantly monitoring and periodically reviewing the security arrangements made for the Amarnath Yatra. Union Home Secretary has reviewed the security arrangements for Amarnath Yatra 2006 on April 28, 2006 at Delhi and June 16, 2006 at Srinagar with the State Government officials and security agencies. Special Secretary (Internal Security) has visited the Yatri camps on June 9, 2006 and reviewed the security arrangements made at these sites followed by a review meeting on June 10, 2006.

(f): As per the report of the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, in view of the increased terrorist threat, various steps have been taken for the security of Amarnath pilgrims, which include the following-

(i) Security Forces deployed on constant alert and Road Opening Parties (ROPs) already deployed further strengthened;

(i) Intensive patrolling of routes leading to Holy Cave being carried out with surprise checking of vehicles;

(ii) Special nakas established en-route and thorough checking/ frisking being carried out;

(iii) Doorframe metal detectors and X-ray machines/gadgets installed at Holy Cave, Sheshnag, Chandanwari, Ashmuquam and Base Camp.

(iv) Emphasis laid on various security /Intelligence agencies to generate actionable intelligence to thwart the evil designs of terrorists and ensure security and safety of yatries.

In addition to the above mentioned steps, additional Central Paramilitary Forces and dog squads have been provided to the State Government for the security arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra 2006.